

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/961,055
				Filing Date	September 24, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Masaaki HIRAOKI et al.
				Art Unit	2871
				Examiner Name	Zhi Qiang Qi
				Attorney Docket Number	0756-2367
Sheet	1	of	2		

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)				
		US-5306651		04-26-1994	Masumo et al.	
		US-4772927		09-20-1988	Saito et al.	
		US-4470060		09-04-1984	Yamazaki	
		US-5008218		04-16-1991	Kawachi et al.	
		US-5166085		11-24-1992	Wakai et al.	
		US-5017984		05-21-1991	Tanaka et al.	
		US-4762807		08-09-1988	Yamazaki	
		US-5159477		10-27-1992	Shimada et al.	
		US-5083190		01-21-1992	Pfiester	
		US-5164805		11-17-1992	Lee	
		US-4651182		03-17-1987	Yamazaki	
		US-7420628		09-02-2008	Hiroki et al.	
		US-7479939		01-20-2009	Hiroki et al.	
		US-7423290		09-09-2008	Yamazaki et al.	
		US-7489367		02-10-2009	Yamazaki et al.	
		US-4682407		07-28-1987	Wilson et al.	
		US-4740481		04-26-1988	Wilson et al.	
		US-4997785		03-05-1991	Pfiester	
		US-2009/0021663		01-22-2009	Hiroki et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)					
		JP 02-158714		06-19-1990			Abst.
		JP 02-165104		06-26-1990			Abst.
		JP 63-237571		10-04-1988			Abst.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
-----------------------	--------------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.  
Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST 3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbol as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b> Application Number 09/961,055 Filing Date September 24, 2001 First Named Inventor Masaaki HIRAOKI et al. Art Unit 2871 Examiner Name Zhi Qiang Qi Attorney Docket Number 0756-2367	
Sheet	2	of	2		

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
-----------------------	--------------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.

Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete.

including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent

On the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1460, Alexandria, VA 22313-1460. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.